

Purchasing and disposing of electronics

Electronics contain toxins that, while not harmful in your home, are health and environmental hazards in a landfill. Do not throw your household electronics in the trash. Recycle or reuse them instead. Better yet, follow these tips when purchasing electronics:

"Earthwise buys"

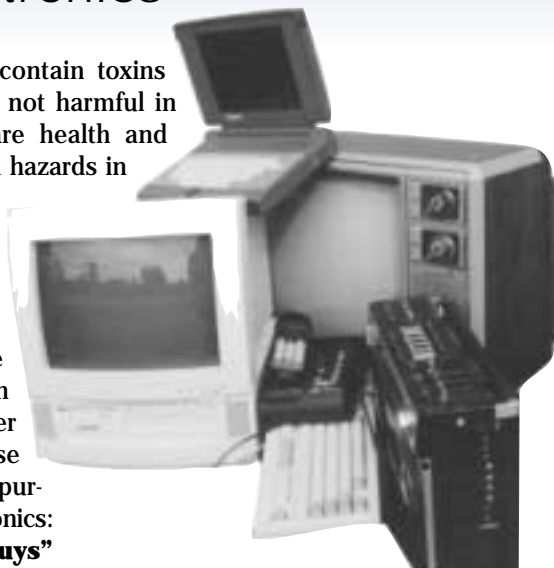
- ◆ Consider leasing instead of buying electronic equipment.
- ◆ Identify and purchase reliable and durable products.
- ◆ If possible, repair electronics instead of replacing them.
- ◆ Buy upgradeable gear.
- ◆ Take advantage of dealer or manufacturer trade-ins.

Reuse

- ◆ Resell working electronic items to firms specializing in buying and selling used equipment.
- ◆ Donate your working equipment to schools, non-profit or charitable organizations that accept these items.

Recycle

Take your unwanted electronics to the South Hennepin Problem Waste Drop-Off Center. ◆



Composting bins available

Backyard composting is an easy way to turn much of the waste from your yard into a rich material that you can use to improve your soil. Using finished compost on your lawn and garden will provide an organic fertilizer, suppress weeds and save water.

Compost bins are available for purchase and include a complete guide to backyard composting. Cost is \$15. Supplies are limited. Forms must be used to reserve a bin. For more information, call South Hennepin Recycling Center at 612-348-4919 or visit their Web site at www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/household/bins.html. ◆

Bloomington City Code requires compost bins and piles to be:

- ◆ Located at least 10 feet from lot lines.
- ◆ No closer than 50 feet to any dwelling on adjacent property.
- ◆ Free of pet feces that can spread disease.
- ◆ Free of meat, bones, grease, whole eggs and dairy products that can attract rodents and other animals.

Rec supervisor knows the score: Providing quality service and programs

Diane Moe doesn't have a desk job. During the summer the Parks and Recreation Supervisor volleys between the beach, ball games and parks, where she checks on staff and gets to know kids and members of the community. In winter she spends evenings and weekends supervising the busy outdoor skating rinks.

Making a splash

Five years ago, Diane came to the City with an aquatic background, which helped her operate Bush Lake Beach and Valley View Pool. Growing up, she spent summers in northern Minnesota as a camper, counselor and day camp director.

One of Diane's current duties is overseeing the Valley View Pool renovation. When it reopens in 2002, the new Bloomington Family Aquatic Center will include water play features, a renovated bathhouse and a zero-depth entry five times the size of the old wading pool.

"Studies have shown that people spend as much as six hours a day at an aquatic center as opposed to two hours at a lap pool (like the former Valley View Pool)," Diane explained. "The new aquatic center will provide people with a day's worth of activity. They can swim, have lunch or sit in the shade."

Tennis anyone?

Tennis is an activity Diane doesn't play well but, because of her expertise with groups, she has had to fill in when instructors were ill. This prompted her to take lessons.

"It was funny because parents of children in my class saw me and wondered why their instructor was taking a beginning tennis class!" she remembered.

Doggone good service

Diane unleashed her skills with the opening of the 25-acre dog facility last September. She has worked hard to make sure everyone and their dog can enjoy the area.

"A woman who uses a wheelchair called to say how she and her dog loved the new off-leash facility, but she had trouble maneuvering the entrance," Diane said. "I made a call to Public Works and within a week a crew had laid an asphalt pad to create an accessible path and parking area."

Lifetime skills

Parks and Recreation works with the Bloomington Athletic Association to provide physical activities that teach kids valuable lessons including winning and losing, cooperation, teamwork and respect for parks.



The hope is that they will continue their activity in adulthood.

"Recreation can make such an impact in people's lives," Diane said. "People can participate in sports like swimming, tennis and golf when they are 80 years old and with the active senior population we have in Bloomington, it's evident they do."

For more information on Parks and Recreation programs, call 952-563-8877. ◆

Emphasize the FUN in youth sports

Do you think summer seems less relaxing for kids compared to when you were young? You may be right.

Over the last twenty years, kids' free time has decreased an average of twelve hours per week and the amount of time spent in structured sports has doubled. The increase in competitiveness and busy activity schedules creates stress on both child and parent.

Keep it positive

It's easy to lose sight of the fact that sports are supposed to be a fun and positive experience for kids. If this is happening in your home, now is a good time to reevaluate the role youth sports and

activities play in your family life. Ask yourself:

- ◆ Does your family have time to enjoy each other, have meaningful conversations and eat supper together?
- ◆ What is your attitude toward the activity your child participates in?
- ◆ Are you more serious about the sport or worry more about his/her skill level than your child?
- ◆ Do you get mad at the coach, then voice your opinion in front of your child?
- ◆ Do you greet your favorite athlete after a game with "Did

you win?" instead of "Did you have fun?"

Send a message

A simple effort to emphasize the fun in playing a sport, instead of only winning, will help your child cope better when he or she loses.

Learn more

The Tri-City Partners are working with other community organizations to sponsor a fall forum, "Youth Sports and Healthy Youth Development." For more information, call Joan Bulfer at 952-563-8992 or email jbulfer@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ◆





People and Resources You Can Count On

Nominations sought for human rights award



The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. The Commission will honor an individual who has demonstrated leadership in promoting human rights in Bloomington. The award recipient will be publicly recognized and receive a plaque. The deadline for Omar Bonderud Award nominations is Friday, September 21. To receive an application, call Bev Thompson at 952-563-8733; TTY users 952-563-8740. To download the application from the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, type in the keywords **omar bonderud** in the "Search the Site" box at the bottom of our home page. ♦

16th Annual Job Success Fair "Win with Mobility"

Individuals with disabilities are invited to visit with over 65 businesses and agencies at the 16th Annual Job Success Fair for people with disabilities. This networking and job-hunting opportunity will be held Monday, October 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington. For more information, call the Human Services Division at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦

Cornerstone: Working to prevent violence in our community

Most perpetrators of violent crime either witnessed domestic abuse as a child or were abused themselves. According to the Minnesota Bureau of Corrections, 90 percent of inmates incarcerated for committing violent crimes report being abused as children. In 1994, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported that almost 80 percent of batterers grew up witnessing abuse in the home.

Stopping the cycle of violence

Cornerstone is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide comprehensive programming to victims of family violence and their children. By investing in the long-term needs of the family, Cornerstone helps create a nonviolent future.

Support services

Cornerstone provides safe housing and supportive services including:

- ♦ Legal advocacy.
- ♦ Support groups.
- ♦ Youth counseling.
- ♦ Violence prevention and anger management education.
- ♦ Parenting skills education.

Volunteer

Help prevent violent crime and abuse from happening in our community by volunteering. Your service could include:

- ♦ Facilitating a support group for women and children.
- ♦ Answering a crisis line.
- ♦ Mentoring a child.
- ♦ Connecting clients to staff by answering telephones.

Contact us today

For information, call Cornerstone at 952-884-0376. ♦

Disability awareness programs

The Bloomington Human Services Division offers programs to help children develop positive attitudes toward individuals with disabilities and increase a child's ability to relate effectively with these individuals. The programs include:

- ♦ **Special Buddies & Stuff**, for pre-school and elementary age children, utilizes child-size puppets to help children

understand how people with developmental, physical or learning disabilities use their abilities in daily activities.

- ♦ **Disability Awareness Fairs** allow students to better understand what it might be like to have a disability.

- ♦ **Disability Awareness Showcases** focus on the abilities and talents of individuals with disabilities.

For more information

Staff consults with teachers and youth leaders to develop programs that meet specific needs. Programs are available in public schools through a contract between the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington School District and on a fee basis to pre-school children and youth groups. For more information, call Denise Royer at 952-563-4953. ♦

Sister City delegation: Youkoso! Welcome!

Bloomington will host a delegation of 30 to 40 members of the Chamber of Commerce, City Council and local business community from Izumi City, Japan, on September 9, 10 and 11. The delegation will be one of the largest groups from our sister city to visit the community.

Activities

Residents and the business community will get a chance to meet and socialize with delegation members. Activities include:

- ♦ A traditional welcome dinner sponsored by the Bloomington Sister City Organization.
- ♦ A welcome luncheon co-hosted by members of the Bloomington Rotary, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce.
- ♦ Participation in the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau Business Expo held at the Radisson South Hotel.



An 18-member student delegation from Izumi City visited Bloomington in July to experience life in the United States. At a welcome reception, the students performed a dance based on a traditional folk tale about fishing.

- ♦ A day at the Mall of America featuring a presentation and briefing by mall leasing agents on business opportunities and present and future programs targeted specifically for the Japanese delegation.

- ♦ Traditional Japanese street dancers exhibition.

For more information, call Councilmember Vern Wilcox at 952-854-1425. ♦

Becoming tobacco-free is a phone call away

Take advantage of Minnesota's Tobacco Helpline. The new tobacco cessation counseling service is available at no cost, regardless of insurance coverage. The telephone-counseling program works for all forms of tobacco, is more convenient than attending a class and provides ongoing, personalized guidance to help people quit.

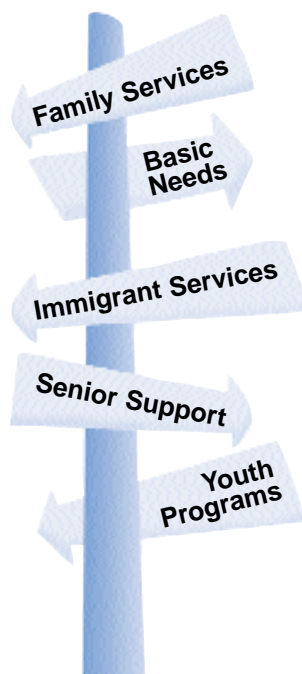
Services

- ♦ Free, one-on-one counseling by trained experts who will determine the best approach to help you quit.
- ♦ A quitting plan designed for you, including immediate access to support offered by your health plan.
- ♦ Information about successful quitting techniques and medications that can help you stay tobacco-free.

Helpline hours

Mon. - Thurs. ..	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday	Closed.

For more information, call Minnesota's Tobacco Helpline at 1-877-270-STOP (7867). ♦



Don't know where to turn?

Call **FamiLink**, your **connection** to community resources and support

Don't know where to turn for questions regarding legal issues, counseling, housing or financial assistance? Call or visit FamiLink Bloomington Resource Center where trained staff will clarify issues, identify options and get you connected to community programs, resources and services. FamiLink is located at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Our hours are Mondays, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-884-0444.

FamiLink Bloomington

952-884-0444 V/TTY

PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.



Galaxy Youth Center

Located in the Bloomington Education Center, 8900 Portland Avenue, Galaxy Youth Center provides a safe and nurturing environment where youth, grades 6 to 8, can discover themselves through recreation, social interaction, community involvement, education and service to others. **Activities include:** music, Foosball, Ping-Pong and billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects, sports and more! The center is open afternoons and evenings. For more information, call 952-885-8548. ♦

Adult Sports

Fall Tennis Lessons

When: *Session I:* Sept. 12 - Oct. 18.
Session II: Oct. 24 - Nov. 29.
Times: Call Parks and Rec for details.
Where: 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club,
1001 W. 98th Street.
Cost: \$46.50

Women's and Co-Rec Volleyball

Leagues will form in September, with play starting on Monday, October 15. Cost is \$380 refereed and \$240 recreational. Sign up deadline is Friday, September 14. For additional information, call Parks and Recreation. ♦



River Rendezvous... A step back in time

When: Saturday, September 22,
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: Pond-Dakota Mission Park,
401 E. 104th Street
Cost: Adults - \$6 pre-paid, \$7 at the gate;
Seniors/children - \$5, \$6 at the gate;
Children ages 5 and under - free.

Bloomington's rich past comes alive during this living history festival depicting frontier life in the 1800s. Watch Dakota people interact with early European settlers. Costumed re-

enactors will demonstrate the skills and crafts of two great cultures. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Information Line at 952-563-8878.

River Rendezvous needs volunteers!

- ♦ Tour guides for school children, Monday - Friday, September 17 - 21, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - ♦ Historic re-enactors.
 - ♦ Organizers and people to set up.
- To volunteer, call Parks and Recreation. ♦

Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange Cooperative



provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational, social and educational programs. These opportunities are for people with varied ability levels in both inclusive and segregated settings. A quarterly brochure is available.

Adult Activities

Happenings

Staff to participant ratio - 1:10

Happenings is a social and recreational program that offers field trips to events and activities, in-house parties, dances and a chance to be with friends. Members take part in the group with little guidance, are responsible for their own safety and make decisions regarding interests. Members call in their own reservations and handle money for events. Participants usually work in a competitive setting and live, or could live, independently.

Who: Group I: Ages 18 - 29.
Group II: Ages 30 - 55.

When: Twice a month, varied days and times.
Schedule will be mailed.

Where: Various community locations.

Cost: Per quarter - \$12.50 (resident);
\$17.50 (non-resident).
Field trips/special events extra.

To register: Group I: Call 952-563-8877.
Group II: Call 612-861-9361.

Adult Drop-in Center

This program is for adults, 18 and older, who would benefit from a supportive supervised environment to work on social skills and enhance leisure interests. Located at the Bloomington Education Center, 8900 Portland Avenue, Galaxy Youth Center offers a game room, a computer center, facilities for cooking, arts and crafts and more. Participants must have a current AR&LE participant profile. Cost is \$3 per night. The center is open Wednesday evenings on September 19; October 17 and 31; November 7 and 28; December 5 and 19.

Child and Youth Activities

Big Ten Bowling League

Staff to participant ratio - 1:5

The league gives teens of all abilities an opportunity to practice skills, socialize and have fun. In response to requests, the season is extended by four weeks.

Who: Teens, 13 - 18 years old.

When: Saturdays, September 15 - December 15.

Where: Brunswick Eden Prairie Lanes,
12200 Singletree Lane.

Cost: \$25 (resident); \$30 (non-resident).

Advanced Bowling

If you are an advanced bowler, age 13 to 21, and would like help integrating into the Brunswick Lanes Teen Bowling Program, call Parks and Recreation for more information.

Fall Travel Club

Staff to participant ratio - 1:6

In this inclusive social and recreational program, participants learn important social and activity skills while participating in events and in-house leisure activities.

Who: Children, ages 7 - 12, of all ability levels.

When: Saturdays, September 8 - November 3.

Where: Various locations.

Cost: \$17.50 (resident); \$25 (non-resident).
Field trips/special events extra. ♦

To every individual and corporate sponsor of Summer Fete

THANK YOU!

Corporate sponsors

Andy's Tap
Bloomington Chrysler,
Plymouth, Jeep
Bloomington Visitor's and
Convention Bureau
Calypso Monarchs
Cedar Creek Oil and
Gas Company
Delegard Tool Company
Feldman Imports
Hansen, Jergensen,
Nergaard & Co., LLP

Robert L. Lieser, CPA
Jim Lupient's Harold
Chevrolet
Kraus-Anderson Inc.
Micron Molding Inc.
Plekkenpol Builders Inc.
Radisson Hotel South
Raindance Sprinkler
Systems, Inc.
Reliant Energy
Minnegasco

Richfield Bank &
Trust Co.
Saturn of Bloomington
Simonson Realty
Sunde Land
Surveying, LLC
Super \$ Cash
The Black Duck Co.
United Properties
VFW Post #1296-
Everett R. McClay
Ziegler Inc.



Bloomington Art Center

10206 Penn Avenue South
Phone: 952-563-4777

The Bloomington Art Center's **13th Annual Antique Show and Sale** will be Saturday and Sunday, September 29 - 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bloomington Armory. Enjoy many quality dealers, door prizes, food and free parking. Admission of \$3 is good for both days. ♦

Bloomington Yesterday

Bloomington Fire Department

When the Bloomington Fire Department was formed in 1947, much of our community was still farmland. One resident described the community as "still semi-agricultural with subdivisions just starting. Farmland was selling for \$150 to \$200 per acre." It wasn't unusual for firefighters to be called to put out barn or grass fires at that time. ♦

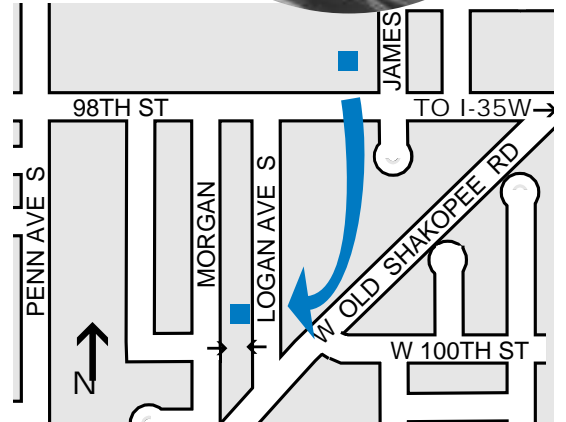


Photo credit: Bloomington Fire Department

Motor Vehicle Office has moved

The Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office has moved to **9930 Logan Avenue South**, one block south of its former location.

Office hours are Monday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8719. ♦



Open House highlights Fire Prevention Week

The City's fire stations will celebrate Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Saturday, October 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A variety of activities and demonstrations will be featured. Fire trucks, police squad cars and equipment from the Public Works Department will be on display.

For more information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-881-4062. ♦

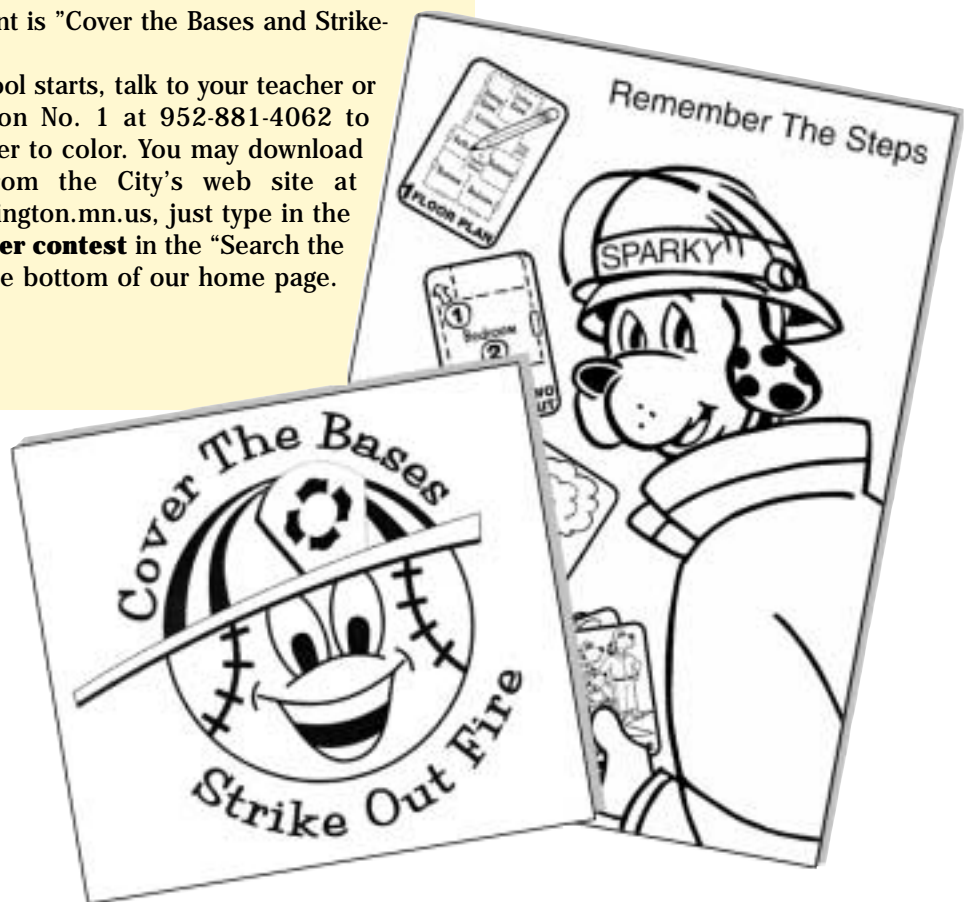
**Visit your local fire station
Saturday, October 13
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Station No.	Address
1	10 West 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. So.
3	2050 East 86th St.
4	4201 West 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
6	8601 Lakeview Rd.

Hey kids!

The Fire Department is sponsoring a poster contest in honor of Fire Prevention Week. The theme for this year's event is "Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire."

When school starts, talk to your teacher or call Fire Station No. 1 at 952-881-4062 to receive a poster to color. You may download the poster from the City's web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, just type in the keywords **poster contest** in the "Search the Site" box at the bottom of our home page. ♦



Honor Guard



This past year, **Assistant Chief Terry Keeler** organized an Honor Guard made up of 17 Bloomington Volunteer Firefighters. These members represent the Fire Department at funerals and other occasions. ♦

www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

NEW to the Web site

The City of Bloomington's Web site has a new look and more information. You'll find your favorites faster and get what you're looking for easier with the user-friendly search. Want to know what's happening around the City? We've headlined more late breaking news.

Recent site additions

The Development Directory

A list of proposed, recently approved and ongoing developments around Bloomington has been transformed into an interactive map. Just click on any map marker to view information about the development. Descriptions include site characteristics, project description and project status.

The Fire Department

You'll find a map of the six fire station locations, statistics on fire calls over the past two years and an application for volunteer firefighter. See page 1.

Time-of-Sale Housing Inspection Program

Anyone who sells a dwelling in Bloomington needs to obtain a "Time-of-Sale" Inspection Report that shows potential home buyers infor-

mation about the condition of a dwelling and requires the seller to correct immediate hazards. This new on-line section describes the program, lists licensed evaluators and explains the conditions or defects likely to cause injury to a person or property if not corrected. With this information, hazards can be fixed prior to an inspection.

Public handouts from Community Development

These information guides highlight some of the federal, state and local regulations that apply in Bloomington. For example, garage sign rules for residential properties and recreational vehicle storage guidelines are included.

Permit applications/forms

Download a copy of the permit application you need to

complete before you build a deck, install a pool or replace a driveway.

Our address

The Web site is located at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. Comments or questions should be directed to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818. ♦

